

RECOGNIZING MANITOWOC MAYOR  
KEVIN CRAWFORD ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the Honorable Kevin Crawford, the longest continually-serving mayor in the history of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. First elected in 1989, Mayor Crawford is stepping down this month to pursue another career path.

Mayor Crawford's energetic and creative leadership over twenty years has helped provide the spark fueling a business and manufacturing revival in Manitowoc that has made the city one of Wisconsin's biggest economic success stories of recent years. His focus on job creation, pursuit of public-private partnerships and instinct for opportunity helped the city capitalize on its already diverse manufacturing base, skilled labor force and unique attributes as a Lake Michigan port city with a proud history as a World War II maritime industry leader.

Over the years, I have worked with Kevin Crawford on many issues of importance to Manitowoc and have come to know him as a tireless and passionate advocate for the city. It's clear to me that his optimism and hard work have not only offered an impetus for progress and growth in the city, but have contributed to the momentum to sustain it.

Last year The Wall Street Journal ran a feature story highlighting the manufacturing and exporting successes of the city and its rebound after the closing of its second-largest employer in 2003. Mayor Crawford has called manufacturing a "core pillar of our economy," and has seen to it that local government takes an active role in developing what he terms "new economy manufacturing," including new technology and jobs.

Indeed, in the current global recession, hits to the Manitowoc economy have been buffered by the presence of promising new energy-related companies that have taken root there in recent years.

During his tenure, Mayor Crawford negotiated the revival of car ferry passenger service between Manitowoc and Ludington, Michigan, and has worked to ensure its continued success. He was instrumental in bringing new owners and leadership to the ailing Burger Boat Company, now firmly positioned as a world leader in luxury yacht manufacturing.

As commissioner of the Manitowoc Public Utilities, Mayor Crawford has been the dedicated chief steward of this city-owned and managed electric and water utility which has grown considerably over the last two decades and affords local citizens some of the lowest utility rates in the country. Considered one of the most knowledgeable local elected officials in the area of electric energy, he has been recognized by the American Public Power Association, the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Water Association.

Other achievements of the Crawford era in Manitowoc include the construction of a new city hall, library and public safety building, the development of a new Visitor Information Cen-

ter, and major retail expansion and infrastructure improvements.

In addition, Mayor Crawford created and has fostered an active sixteen-year sister-city relationship between Manitowoc and Kamagowa, Japan. The partnership has resulted in numerous citizen exchange visits over the years and is acknowledged to be one of the most vibrant sister-city associations in the country.

His colleagues across Wisconsin have also recognized Mayor Crawford's outstanding leadership skills. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities and a Past President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities as well as a member of its legislative committee.

In light of his many years of commitment to the people of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and his impressive record of accomplishment, I am proud to recognize Mayor Kevin Crawford and extend my congratulations and appreciation to him on his retirement from public service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFE SUS-  
TAINING TREATMENT PREF-  
ERENCES ACT OF 2009

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009. As we approach health care reform, there is no other area more vital for honest discussion and careful analysis than what happens at a patient's end of life.

For most of us, the majority of our lifetime health care will be administered in that last year of life. Indeed for many, it is just the last few months where we will use the most doctor care, the most medical procedures, and the most days in a hospital.

Advances in healthcare have led to an aging population facing increasingly complex end of life health care decisions. These strains make complicated, critical decision making about medical care incredibly difficult. Too often, these decisions are avoided until a crisis occurs, resulting in inadequate planning, unknown patient preferences, and families left struggling with the burden of determining their loved ones' wishes. For both families and patients, this is a time of incredible stress, confusion, and pain.

In response, health organizations in Oregon came together in the early 1990s to develop the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment program to help seriously ill patients identify their treatment preferences using a clear, standardized template. Written as actionable medical orders and signed by a physician, these forms help communicate patient preference to health care personnel regarding intensity of medical intervention, transfers to the hospital, use of antibiotics, artificially administered nutrition, and resuscitation.

National interest in Oregon's Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment program has spread and Oregon has become the national resource for states and communities interested in developing similar programs. Last year, California and New York enacted orders for life sustaining treatment programs and over thirty other states are developing programs.

We can and should do more to support these efforts to enhance quality patient care at the end of life. The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act provides coverage under Medicare for consultations regarding orders for life sustaining treatment. These discussions add quality and value to patient care, but they often require significant time, proper training, and great delicacy, which merit compensation through Medicare. Medicare currently pays for acute care services provided to beneficiaries, but it does not specifically recognize the important benefit of informed discussions between patients and their health provider about care preferences for their last months and years of life.

The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act also creates a grant program to support the development and expansion of these programs, providing necessary resources to states and local communities. These programs provide valuable services to patients, their families, and health care providers through educational materials; professional training on advance care planning; coordinating and collaborating with hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice programs, home health agencies, and emergency medical services to implement such orders across the continuum of care; and monitoring the success of the program.

To be effective, advance care plans must ensure that treatment preferences are elicited and presented in a way that is recognized and respected by the health care community—orders for life sustaining treatment programs do just that. These programs have a track record of promoting patient autonomy through documenting and coordinating a person's treatment preferences, enhancing the authorized transfer of patient records between facilities, clarifying treatment intentions and minimizing confusion, reducing repetitive activities in complying with the Patient Self Determination Act, and facilitating appropriate treatment by emergency personnel. Oregon is nationally recognized for our exemplary end of life care and orders for life sustaining treatment have played a critical role providing quality, patient-centered care for those in their final chapter of life.

I am proud to introduce the Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009, which will lay the groundwork so all seriously ill Americans have the tools to make informed medical care decisions, convey their care plans as clearly as possible, and feel confident their wishes will be known and respected by health care personnel.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE  
EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some